

# MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

## IN VIRGINIA

July 2017-June 2018

### ***INCLUDING***

- Dove
- Woodcock
- Snipe
- Rail
- Gallinule/Moorhen
- All Waterfowl



Virginia Department of  
Game and Inland Fisheries

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# MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

July 2017-June 2018



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Connect people to Virginia's outdoors through boating, education, fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing and other wildlife-related activities. Protect people and property by promoting safe outdoor experiences and managing human-wildlife conflicts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, or veteran's status. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please write to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Attn: Executive Director's Office, 7870 Villa Park Dr, Suite 400, P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228.

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Caution: More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 5721 South Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23231; phone (804) 771-2883, 771-2280; FAX (804) 222-8421.

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Last year marked the 100-year anniversary of our Department as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Convention. Over the years, the management of migratory game birds has been driven by a number of very successful programs including one of the longest running wildlife surveys in the world (the May Breeding Waterfowl Population Survey), a cooperative and international management program through the Flyway Council Systems, and the implementation of Adaptive Harvest Management to guide waterfowl hunting regulations. As we enter our second century of migratory bird conservation in 2017-18, we are looking forward to a promising waterfowl season. Production forecasts are encouraging, with good habitat conditions reported in northern nesting areas, on the prairies, and locally in Virginia. Dove and other game bird populations are also doing well and, with a little help from Mother Nature, hold promise for some good wing-shooting.

In Virginia, we are fortunate to offer a wide variety of opportunities for bird hunters, including youth and apprentice hunters, from the warm days of September through the cold winter conditions in February. We have also added several new Wildlife Management Areas (including Ware Creek and Doe Creek) in the past several years to provide more public access for migratory bird hunters. Check out these and other Wildlife Management Areas on our website ([www.dgif.virginia.gov/wma](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wma)). So whether you like to chase timberdoodles, jacksnipe, marshhens, dippers, sprigtails, honkers, or some other wildfowl, I hope you have a chance to get out in the field with family and friends this year.

**Bob Duncan**  
Executive Director, VDGIF

## VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM AND YOU



Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping, and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlife-oriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition, or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program. Virginia currently receives over \$12 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.



Photo by Dwight Dyke



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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This guide is also  
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### Region 1

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Charles City, VA 23030  
(804) 829-6580

### Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road  
Forest, VA 24551-9223  
(434) 525-7522

### Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen  
Marion, VA 24354  
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### Region 4

P.O. Box 996, 517 Lee Highway  
Verona, VA 24482  
(540) 248-9360

1320 Belman Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(540) 899-4169



## Additional Contacts

### Report Wildlife Violations Only

(800) 237-5712 or [wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov)

### Boating Registration/ License Fees

(866) 721-6911

### Quota Hunts

[www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com)

### Virginia Department of Forestry

Charlottesville Office (M–Th)

[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

(434) 977-6555

### Department of Conservation and Recreation Reservation Center

[www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov)

(800) 933-7275

### USDA Wildlife Services

(804) 739-7739

### U. S. Forest Service Supervisor George Washington and Jefferson Forest

[www.fs.usda.gov/gwj](http://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj)

(540) 265-5100 or (888) 265-0019

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal wildlife inquiries only)

(804) 771-2883; (804) 771-2280

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- 📅 **Game Check (Fall 2017)**  
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AVAILABLE NOW AT THE APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY



# WHAT'S NEW

## FOR 2017-2018?

- The daily bag limit for black ducks has been increased from 1 to 2 per day. See page 12 and our website (<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/waterfowl>) for additional information on this change for black ducks.
- The daily bag limit for pintails has been reduced from 2 to 1 per day. See page 12.

## General Information

### Migratory Game Birds

Migratory game birds means species of waterfowl (ducks, geese, brant, swans, and mergansers) and webless species (coots, doves, gallinules, moorhens, rails, snipe, and woodcock).

### Shooting Hours

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting as prescribed. Shooting hours for all waterfowl, all seasons is one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, (except when otherwise permitted in the September Canada Goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order season). See sunrise-sunset timetable on page 29. **Non-toxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting and for rail and snipe hunting.**

### Possession Limits

The possession limit for migratory game birds is 3 times the daily bag limit (except for light geese and tundra swans), but no one is allowed to have more than one daily bag limit of game in his possession while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

### Sunday Hunting

Hunting for waterfowl (ducks, coot, geese, brant, and swan) and rails (including gallinules and moorhens) is allowed on Sundays subject to geographical limitations established by the Director of the department and except within 200 yards of a house of worship or any accessory structure thereof.

### Non-toxic Shot

Non-toxic shot approved by the Department [steel, bismuth-tin, Iron-tungsten, Iron-tungsten-nickel (HEVISHOT), copper-clad iron, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel, and tungsten-iron-polymer] is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, snipe, and rails. Lead shot is **not allowed** for hunting these species and **cannot be in possession** in the field while hunting these species. Shot size should be no larger than "T".

### Blaze Colored Requirement

The term "blaze colored" in reference to clothing or other items required for specific safe hunting practices shall be one of two colors: 1) traditional blaze orange or 2) bright pink or fluorescent pink which will be known as blaze pink.

When hunting any species during a firearms deer season and on youth/apprentice deer

hunting weekend, every hunter (see exceptions here), or persons accompanying a hunter, shall wear a blaze colored hat or blaze colored upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze colored material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze color. Hats shall not be in "camo" style, since the latter is designed to prevent visibility. A logo, which does not detract from visibility, may be worn on a blaze colored hat.

Hunters using ground (pop-up, chair, box, etc.) or tree stand blinds that conceal them from view must display a minimum of 100 square inches of blaze color, visible from 360 degrees, on the OUTSIDE of such blinds. This blaze color is in addition to any worn on the hunter's person.

### Exceptions

- Blaze colored clothing is not required of waterfowl hunters, dove hunters, individuals participating in hunting dog field trials, and fox hunters on horseback without firearms.
- Hunters hunting with archery tackle during an open firearms deer season in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by state law or local ordinance, are exempt from the blaze color requirement.
- Other than muzzleloader deer hunters, blaze colored clothing is not required of any hunters hunting during the muzzleloader deer seasons.

## AVIAN INFLUENZA

### Should hunters be concerned?

Avian influenza viruses (AI, also called bird flu) can be found in a variety of wild bird species, including waterfowl. The viruses usually do not cause sickness or mortality in waterfowl, but waterfowl can be carriers and pass the disease to other bird species that may be more susceptible. Some viruses may cause significant mortality in poultry, and recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic AI have resulted in significant mortality in commercial poultry flocks in the U.S. The AI viruses involved in these mortality events are not easily transmitted to animals other than birds, and no human infections have occurred. Although no highly pathogenic AI has been detected in the Atlantic flyway, surveillance in wild birds will be continued nationwide this fall. Hunters should take basic precautionary measures, if they do not already, when handling harvested waterfowl by following the guidelines listed to the right:

1. Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead.
2. Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
3. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning your birds.
4. Use rubber gloves when cleaning game.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.
6. Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
7. Cook game meat thoroughly (165°F) to kill disease organisms.

VDGIF staff will be visiting boat ramps and public hunting locations this season to sample hunter-harvested waterfowl for disease monitoring. We ask for your cooperation in this effort as the sampling procedure will only take a minute or two.

### For more information on avian influenza:

U.S. Geological Survey  
[www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease\\_information/avian\\_influenza/index.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
[www.fws.gov/home/avianflu](http://www.fws.gov/home/avianflu)

World Health Organization  
[www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)



## DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH HIP

All hunters (whether licensed or license-exempt) who plan to hunt migratory game birds including dove, waterfowl, rail, woodcock, snipe, coots, gallinules, or moorhens, must be registered with the Virginia Harvest Information Program (HIP). A new HIP registration is required each year. Hunters are no longer given a separate HIP number, but confirmation of your HIP registration will be printed on your license, or issued separately for license-exempt hunters. Information obtained from HIP is vital for the management of migratory birds in Virginia. Register for HIP online at [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com) or call 888-788-9772.

If you DO NOT hunt the migratory birds noted above, you DO NOT need to register for HIP.

## FEDERAL ELECTRONIC OR "E-STAMP" DUCK STAMP PROGRAM

A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years and older in order to hunt waterfowl. Waterfowl hunters can still purchase their Federal Duck Stamp at U.S. Post Offices at a cost of \$25.00, but a new program provides a convenient online option whereby hunters can obtain an E-stamp for \$27.50. The E-stamp is valid immediately following the purchase and for up to 45 days. The actual Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to the customer within 45 days and must be signed and carried thereafter while hunting waterfowl.



2017-2018 Federal Duck Stamp artwork, by James Hautman  
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To obtain the E-stamp Federal Duck Stamp go to the Department's website ([www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com)) and click on hunting and fishing licenses or visit one of over 800 license agents throughout the Commonwealth.

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**BROWNING**



## Resident Hunting Licenses

(Issuance fee is included in the price.)

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase, except the bear license and deer/turkey license (only valid July 1–June 30), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp (only valid July 1–June 30), the apprentice hunting license (valid for 2 years from date of purchase), and lifetime licenses. For information on Hunter Education requirements go to [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education).

LICENSES	FEE
<b>Resident Sportsman's License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$133.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, muzzleloading license, freshwater fishing license, and trout license.	
<b>Resident Hunting License</b> (age 16 and older)	
1-year license	\$23.00
2-year license	\$44.00
3-year license	\$65.00
4-year license	\$86.00
<b>Resident County or City Hunting License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$16.00
For county or city of residence only.	
<b>Resident Apprentice Hunting License</b>	\$11.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
<b>Resident Senior Citizen Hunting License</b> (age 65 and over)	\$9.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license.	
<b>Resident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans</b>	\$12.00
Resident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability upon certification. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the headquarters office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Resident Junior Hunting License</b> (age 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old)	\$8.50
<b>Resident Youth Combination Hunting License</b> (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
<b>Resident Junior Lifetime Hunting License</b> (under age 12)	\$255.00

LICENSES	FEE
No annual bear license, deer/turkey license required until age 12. National Forest Stamp, State Forest Use Permit, and Bonus Deer Permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license. Upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, the license is transferable to a lifetime hunting license at no additional fee. Available through the headquarters office or by mail.	
<b>Resident Legacy Lifetime Hunting License</b>	\$125.00
Must be purchased before age 2. Available through the headquarters office or by mail.	
<b>Resident Lifetime Hunting License</b>	
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the headquarters office or by mail.	
Age 12-44 (hunter education course required under age 16)	\$260.00
Age 45-50	\$210.00
Age 51-55	\$160.00
Age 56-60	\$110.00
Age 61-64	\$60.00
Age 65 and over	\$20.00
<b>Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Hunting Lifetime License</b>	\$15.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be obtained in person at the headquarters office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime Hunting License</b>	no charge
For qualified resident disabled veterans. Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license. All other applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the headquarters office or via a mail-in application. Application available online. A license for freshwater fishing is also available.	

## WHERE TO OBTAIN A LICENSE

- **Online:** At [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com). Select the license(s) you want, pay with your credit card, and print (if needed) your license(s) after you pay.
- **In Person:** Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents around the state.
- **By Phone:** 1-866-721-6911 during regular business hours.

## WHAT LICENSES DO I NEED?

### To Hunt Dove, Woodcock, Snipe, or Rail

A hunting license (unless license exempt), and a HIP registration is required. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.

### To Hunt Waterfowl

A hunting license (unless license exempt), a HIP registration, a Federal Duck stamp (16 years and older), and a State Duck Stamp (16 years and older, unless license exempt) are required. A National Forest Permit or State Forest Use Permit may also be required.





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## Nonresident Hunting Licenses

(Issuance fee is included in the price.)

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase, except the bear license, deer/turkey license (only valid July 1–June 30), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp (only valid July 1–June 30), the apprentice hunting license (valid for 2 years from date of purchase), and lifetime licenses. For information on Hunter Education requirements go to [www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/education).

LICENSES	FEE
<b>Nonresident Hunting License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$111.00
<b>Nonresident 3-Day Hunt License</b> (age 16 and older)	\$60.00
Must be 3 consecutive days	
<b>Nonresident Apprentice Hunting License</b>	\$21.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits may be required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
<b>Nonresident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans</b>	\$56.00
Nonresident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the headquarters office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Nonresident Veteran Annual Hunting License</b>	\$28.50
For nonresident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a total and permanent disability that is service connected. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this hunting license. Can be purchased in person at the headquarters office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
<b>Nonresident Junior Hunting License</b> (under age 12)	\$13.00
<b>Nonresident Junior Hunting License</b> (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
<b>Nonresident Youth Combination Hunting License</b> (under age 16)	\$31.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
<b>Nonresident Legacy Hunting License</b>	\$250.00
Must be purchased before age 2. Available through the headquarters office or by mail.	
<b>Nonresident Lifetime Hunting License</b>	\$555.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the headquarters office or by mail.	

## Miscellaneous Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

(Issuance fee is included in the price.)

One or more of the following may be required in addition to a resident or nonresident hunting license.

LICENSES	FEE
All blind licenses are available for purchase online at <a href="http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com">www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com</a> or through any number of DGIF license agents throughout the state. There is an option to select if a metal plate is needed (new or replacement). If purchased online or through a license agent you will receive a license showing your blind information; the decal and metal plate (if requested) will be mailed separately within 5 to 7 business days.	
<b>Stationary Blind</b>	\$23.50
When purchasing a stationary blind license, you must provide GPS coordinates along with a description of where the blind is located. These coordinates are needed to help evaluate whether blinds are within the required distances, and they will help in future improvements of the blind licensing process. Coordinates should be reported as latitude and longitude and can be entered in one of three formats: 1) Degrees, minutes, seconds (35° 45' 52"). 2) Degrees and decimal minutes (35° 45.87'), or 3) Decimal degrees (35.76°).	
<b>Floating Blind</b>	\$41.00
<b>Offshore Blind Stake</b> (limit 4 per licensee)	\$6.00
<b>Nonresident Hunting Preserve</b>	\$23.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	
PERMITS	FEE
<b>National Forest Permit</b>	\$4.00
To hunt and trap within National Forest. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap; residents who have an annual senior citizen hunting license (\$9.00) or a lifetime license issued before 7/1/88.	
<b>Virginia State Forest Use Permit</b> (age 16 or older)	\$16.00
Allows hunting, trapping, fishing, mountain biking, and horse riding. No motorized vehicles on gated roads/trails (open or closed). Sold in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry.	
<b>Access Permit</b>	\$4.00 per day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The permit fee is \$4 for a daily permit or \$23 for an annual permit. The access permit may be purchased online or at any license agent.</li> <li>An Access Permit is not required of any person, 17 years of age or older, accessing a wildlife management area or DGIF fishing lake, if they have in their possession a valid hunting, freshwater fishing, or trapping license or current boat registration.</li> <li>The access permit requirement does not apply to Department-owned boat ramps or segments of the Appalachian Trail on Department-owned land.</li> <li>Daily group rates are available. For more information go to <a href="http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/access-permit/">www.dgif.virginia.gov/access-permit/</a>.</li> </ul>	
STAMPS	FEE
<b>Federal Migratory Duck E-Stamp</b>	\$27.50
To take migratory waterfowl; required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license. Valid July 1 through June 30. See page 5.	
<b>Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp</b>	\$10.00
Required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt. Valid July 1 through June 30.	



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## Dove



## Statewide Dove Hunting Seasons

## First Segment

September 2–October 29

## Hours:

September 2–8

- 12:00 noon until sunset.

September 9–October 29

- One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

**No Sunday hunting of dove on public waters or on public lands.**

## Second Segment

November 22–29

## Third Segment

December 23–January 15

## Hours for Second and Third Segments:

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

## Bag Limit

15 per day, 45 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

## Dove Hunting On Wildlife Management Areas

Dove hunting is permitted within the boundaries of the following wildlife management areas: Amelia, Briery Creek, Cavalier, Chickahominy\*, Clinch Mountain, Crooked Creek, Dick Cross, Fairystone, Featherfin, Gathright, Goshen, Hardware River, Highland, Horsepen, James River, Little North Mountain, Mattaponi, Pettigrew, C.F. Phelps, Powhatan, Rapidan, Thompson, Ware Creek, and White Oak Mountain. The dove fields at the Carlisle Tract of Hog Island are being renovated/expanded this year and will not be planted for the 2017 season.

## First Segment

September 2–October 29

## Hours:

September 2–8

- 12:00 noon until sunset.

- Hunting permitted on Saturday, Labor Day, and Wednesday.

\* Hunting on Chickahominy WMA during the first week is by Quota hunt only (see pg. 20).

September 9–October 29

- One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.
- Hunting permitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

## Second Segment

November 22–29

## Third Segment

December 23–January 15

## Hours for Second and Third Segments:

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Hunting permitted daily except Sundays.

## Bag Limit

15 per day, 45 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

## Rails



## Season

September 9–November 17

## Hours:

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

## Bag Limit

Clapper/King 15 — counted together daily, 45 in possession.

Sora/Virginia 25 — counted together daily, 75 in possession.

## Attention Rail and Snipe Hunters

Virginia requires the use of non-toxic shot for hunting rails and snipe. Non-toxic shot is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, rails, snipe, moorhens, and gallinules.

**Sunday hunting for rails, gallinule, and moorhens is allowed on private lands and public lands as permitted by the landowner.**

## Gallinule and Moorhen



## Season

September 9–November 17

## Hours

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

## Bag Limit

15 per day, 45 in possession. (singly or in combination)

**Sunday hunting for rails, gallinule, and moorhens is allowed on private lands and public lands as permitted by the landowner.**



## Woodcock



### Season

November 20–December 8  
December 21–January 15

### Hours

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

### Bag Limit

3 per day, 9 in possession.

**No Sunday hunting of woodcock on public waters or on public lands.**

## Snipe



### Season

October 6–9  
October 21–January 31

### Hours

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

### Bag Limit

8 per day, 24 in possession.

### Attention Rail and Snipe Hunters

Virginia requires the use of non-toxic shot for hunting rails and snipe. Non-toxic shot is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, rails, snipe, moorhens, and gallinules.

**No Sunday hunting of snipe on public waters or on public lands.**



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## September Teal



**Season: East of I-95**  
September 16–September 30

**Season: West of I-95**  
September 21–September 30

**Hours**  
One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

**Bag Limit**  
6 per day, 18 in possession.\*  
(any combination of blue-winged and green-winged teal only)

**\*Note:** Hunters are cautioned to **positively identify** their ducks before shooting, since other species, such as wood ducks, may be in the area.

**Special Requirements**

In addition to a HIP registration, a federal migratory duck stamp and a Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (unless license exempt) are also required to hunt teal during this season.

## Ducks



**Seasons**  
October 6–9 (Black duck closed)  
November 15–26  
December 16–January 28

**Bag Limit**  
**Daily Bag Limit:** 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 can be hen mallards), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 black ducks (except closed during Oct. 6–9), 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck.

**Hours**  
One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

**Closed** season on harlequin ducks.

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. No person may take more than one daily bag limit in any one day.

## Waterfowl Hunting On Wildlife Management Areas

For information about quota or managed hunts for waterfowl and dove on Department WMA's, see page 19 or go online at [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov).

Waterfowl hunting on the James River WMA is permitted only on the opening day, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the duck and goose seasons.

Waterfowl hunting on the Mattaponi Wildlife Management Area is permitted only on October 6, 7, 8 and 9, and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the duck and goose seasons.

Game Farm Marsh WMA is open for hunting on Friday, Saturday and Monday of the October segment of the duck season (Oct. 6, 7 and 9), and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays

during the November (Nov. 15–26), and December–January (Dec. 16–Jan. 28) segments of the duck season. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m. Hunting on Friday and Saturday of the October segment (Oct. 6 & 7) and on the opening day of the November segment (Nov. 15) and the December–January segment (Dec. 16) will be by Quota hunt only—see page 20. Outside of the duck season segments listed above, waterfowl hunting on Game Farm Marsh is open with no restrictions on hunt days, times, or hunter numbers.

Waterfowl hunting on and within 500 yards of the Ware Creek WMA is permitted (except

portions of Philbates Creek) on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays of the duck and goose seasons. Hunters may not occupy their hunting location until 5 a.m. and hunting must end by 1 p.m.

Waterfowl hunting at Doe Creek WMA is open to walk-in hunting on Saturdays only for half days during the last two segments of the general waterfowl season. Hunters may hunt until 1:00 p.m. and must have all decoys up and be away from the impoundments by 2:00 p.m. The area is open on Sundays for scouting and wildlife viewing.

For information about waterfowl hunting on other State WMAs see our website at <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wma>.

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

**October 21, 2017 and February 3, 2018**

**Statewide.** Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under may harvest the allowed daily bag limit of ducks (see above), and other waterfowl, including Atlantic brant, coots, mergansers, gallinules, moorhens, light geese, 2 Canada geese in the Atlantic Population Zone, 5 Canada geese in the Southern James Bay Population and Resident Population zones, 1 tundra swan (if the youth possesses a tundra swan permit) on the designated youth days. Resident youth age 12–15, and nonresident youth age 15 or under, need a valid Virginia hunting license, unless license exempt. All participating youth must be Virginia HIP registered ([www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com)). All youth must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult at least 18 years of age or older who has a valid Virginia hunting license (unless license exempt). The accompanying adult cannot hunt ducks, but may hunt for those species for which there is an open season.



# Special Sea Duck Season in the \*Special Sea Duck Zone

Sea duck species are scoter, long-tailed duck (formerly oldsquaw), and eider.

## Season

November 10–January 8

## Bag Limit

5 per day (15 in possession), but may include no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks.

## \*Special Sea Duck Zone Boundary

Those waters at a distance greater than 800 yards from any shore, island, or emergent vegetation in the following areas: the ocean waters of Virginia, the tidal waters of Northampton and Accomack counties, and the Chesapeake Bay and each of its tributaries up to the first highway bridge. Back Bay and its tributaries are not included in the special sea duck hunting area.

## Outside the Special Sea Duck Zone

In addition to the “Special Season in the Special Sea Duck Zone,” scoters, long-tails and eiders can also be taken during the regular duck season (Oct. 6–9, Nov. 15–26 and Dec. 16– Jan. 28) in areas **outside the Special Sea Duck Zone** since these species are included as part of the regular duck season bag limit (6 ducks total which can include no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tails or 4 eiders—see regular duck season bag limit on page 12).

# Mergansers



## Seasons

October 6–9

November 15–26

December 16–January 28

## Bag Limit

5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser (15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers).

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### Coots



#### Seasons

October 6–9  
November 15–26  
December 16–January 28

#### Bag Limit

15 per day, 45 in possession.

### Canada Goose

(Includes White-fronted Geese)



#### Atlantic Population Zone (AP) Seasons

November 15–26  
December 22–January 28

#### Bag Limit

2 geese per day (6 in possession).

#### Resident Population Zone (RP) Seasons

November 15–26  
December 16–February 21

#### Bag Limit

5 geese per day (15 in possession).

#### Southern James Bay Population Zone (SJB) Seasons

November 15–26  
December 18–January 14  
January 15–February 15

#### Bag Limit

3 geese per day: Nov. 15–26 and Dec. 18–Jan. 14.  
5 geese per day: Jan. 15–Feb. 15.

#### Canada Goose Zones

The dividing lines between the hunting zones are as follows:

##### Atlantic Population (AP) Hunt Zone

The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along Interstate 95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the city of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina border.

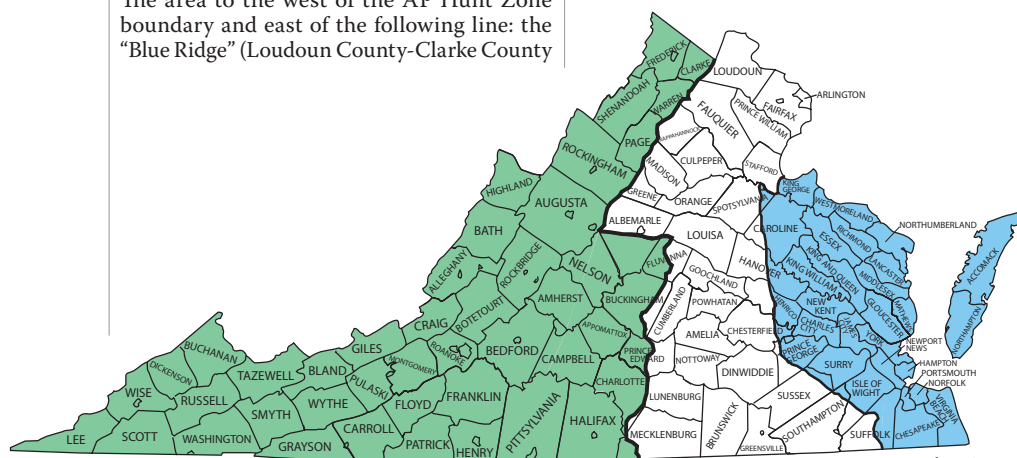
##### Southern James Bay Population (SJB) Hunt Zone

The area to the west of the AP Hunt Zone boundary and east of the following line: the “Blue Ridge” (Loudoun County-Clarke County

line) at the West Virginia-Virginia border, south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun-Fauquier-Rappahannock-Madison-Green-Albemarle and into Nelson counties), then east along Interstate 64 to Route 15, then south along Route 15 to the North Carolina line.

##### Resident Population (RP) Hunt Zone

The portion of the state west of the SJB Hunt Zone.



Resident Population Zone

Southern James Bay Population Zone

Atlantic Population Zone



# September Canada Goose

## Season

September 1–September 25

## Hunt Zone

Statewide.

## Hours: East of I-95

September 1–15

- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

September 16–25

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

## Hours: West of I-95

September 1–20

- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

September 21–25

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

## Bag Limit

10 per day, 30 in possession.

September Canada goose hunting is not permitted within the boundaries of the Amelia and Dick Cross Wildlife Management Areas.

## Special Requirements

In addition to a HIP registration, a federal migratory duck stamp and a Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (unless license exempt) are also required to hunt geese during this season.

**Note:** Electronic calls and unplugged shotguns are not allowed for hunting Canada geese.

# Light Goose

(Greater and Lesser Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)



## Regular Season

October 17–January 31: statewide

## Bag Limit

25 per day, no possession limit.

## Shooting Hours

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

## Conservation Order Season

(See hunt zone in blue below.)

February 1–April 5

## Bag Limit

No daily or possession limit.

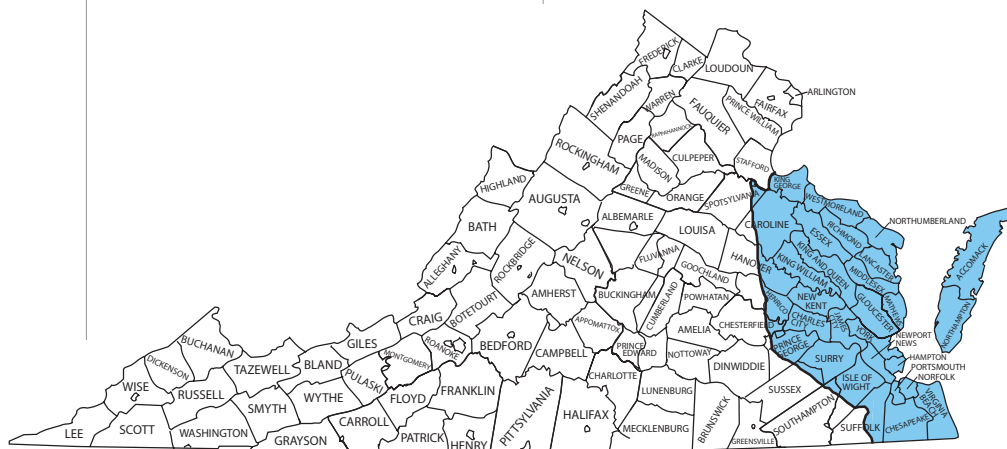
**Special Hunting Methods:** Electronic calls, unplugged shotguns, and extended shooting hours are allowed.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

All hunters who plan to participate during this season must register either online ([www.dgif.virginia.gov/lightgoose](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/lightgoose)) or by phone (866-721-6911), and obtain a Hunter Activity Report prior to hunting. The Hunter Activity Report must be submitted to the Department within two weeks following the close of the season, either through the agency website (above) or by mail (Light Goose Conservation Order, 3801 John Tyler Memorial Highway, Charles City, VA 23030). Registration will begin December 1, 2017.

## Conservation Order Season Zone

Same as the AP Canada Goose Zone — the area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along Interstate 95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the city of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina border.



Atlantic  
Brant**Seasons**

November 15–26  
December 16–January 31

**Bag limit**

2 per day, 6 in possession.

## Tundra Swan

**Seasons**

November 15–January 31

**Bag limit**

1 per permit.

**Tundra Swan Hunt Area**

Hunting will be permitted in all counties and portions of counties lying east of I-95 and south of the Prince William/Stafford County line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

**Tundra Swan Permit**

Before any person may hunt tundra swans in Virginia, he or she must first apply for and receive a tundra swan hunt permit. Permits are issued through a special drawing. The deadline to submit applications for this drawing is September 30, 2017. The Department will issue no more than 750 swan hunting permits. The drawing is open only to holders of a valid

Virginia hunting license. A hunter may only apply for a swan permit online through the Department's website at [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com).

Swan hunting permits are non-transferable and are valid for use only by the person to whom issued. Permits must be in the immediate possession of the permit holder while swan hunting. Immediately at the time and place of kill successful permittees must cancel their swan hunting permit by permanently recording the month and day of kill and by attaching the permit to the swan as instructed. The DGIF is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this tundra swan hunting season. Hunters are required to complete a tundra swan report online on our website ([www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com)) at the end of your hunt. Those who fail to submit their hunt report by February 15, 2018 are ineligible for future drawings.

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**Safety Tips**

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Wear a life jacket or float coat.
- Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Properly load your boat.
- Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- Dress for the water temperature—guard against hypothermia.
- Leave the alcohol at home.

For more information, contact Boating Education at: [BoatSafety@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:BoatSafety@dgif.virginia.gov).

WATERFOWL  
INFORMATION

The web is a wonderful tool for waterfowlers. Information on season dates and bag limits can be found along with information on waterfowl population status, habitat conditions, as well as current waterfowl research being conducted in Virginia. Sites we recommend include:

**Virginia Department of  
Game & Inland Fisheries  
Waterfowl Homepage**  
[www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/  
waterfowl/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/waterfowl/)

**USFWS and Flyway  
Council website**  
[www.flyways.us](http://www.flyways.us)

**Federal Register Documents**  
[www.fws.gov/policy/](http://www.fws.gov/policy/)



## What Terms Do I Need to Understand?

Migratory birds are birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with state and federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks, geese (including brant), swans, mergansers, doves, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock, and snipe.

**Daily bag limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

**Aggregate daily bag limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

**Possession limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.



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**Aggregate possession limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

**Personal abode** means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure, or business trip.

**Migratory bird preservation facility** means:

1. Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
2. Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
3. Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations, receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage, or shipment.

**Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation** means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain. In Virginia, this also applies to food plots that are planted for the purpose of hunting migratory game birds. Relevant factors include recommended planting dates, proper seed distribution, seed bed preparation, application rate, and seed viability. These practices are to be conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For official recommendations visit <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/424/424-100/424-100.pdf>.

- Official recommendations state the guidelines for planting wheat in Virginia are one week before to one week after the first killing frost, October 15–November 15 in eastern Virginia; October 1–November 1 in the Piedmont; October 1–October 25 west of the Blue Ridge. Plant 120–150 lbs. per acre (36 seeds per sq. ft. or 20 seeds per drill ft. in 7" rows). Plant in 6–8" rows or solid seeded.
- Wheat planted or scattered outside of these guidelines does not satisfy the definition of **normal agricultural planting**. Therefore, it is **unlawful** to hunt migratory game birds over such areas.

**Normal agricultural operation** means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice

that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of state Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Normal soil stabilization practice** means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of state Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

**Baited area** means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

**Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

**Manipulation** means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, dicing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

**Natural vegetation** means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

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### Waterfowl Hunting Safety Tips

Cold water combined with foul weather can create hazardous conditions for waterfowl hunters. Because these conditions can be dangerous, some safety tips are provided (below) so hunters can be better prepared before heading out on the water.

#### Weather

To stay warm and avoid the risks of hypothermia or cold water immersion:

- Control wind and wetness by using waterproof jackets, waders, and boots.
- Wear a belt around your waders to prevent water from entering.
- Wear wool clothing or clothing that stays warm when wet, like some fleece products. Bring extras in a waterproof bag.
- Wear a hat. Most warmth escapes through your head.
- Bring a variety of high energy/sugar content food bars for quick energy and calories.
- Your extremities are very important. It's no fun to hunt with cold feet, hands, or head. Bring waterproof gloves and footwear, and chemical hand and foot warmers that you can put inside your gloves or boots.

- If you fall in — go home! Or, take a break and change into warm, dry clothes.

#### Duck Boat Safety

When planning a hunt, check to be sure the boat is in good working condition and includes enough gas for the trip, all necessary safety gear, and boat lights and flashlights in good working order. Hunters must follow all boating rules, and everyone on board should wear a properly fitted U.S.C.G. approved life jacket, vest, or flotation coat anytime while on the water. Cell phones and radios are important communication devices and should be properly charged and kept in a waterproof bag. A GPS unit is helpful in finding your way but don't depend solely on it as a means of navigation, as reception varies and units can fail.

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Choose a route close to shore and avoid crossing large expanses of open water, especially in bad weather.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Don't overload your boat. Check the capacity plate and keep the amount of gear, dogs, and people within your weight limits. Also, be sure the load is properly balanced and try to keep movements and weight shifts (dogs and people) to a minimum. Overloading, sudden shifts in weight, or excessive weather

conditions are the most common causes of boats capsizing or swamping.

- If your boat does capsize or swamp, stay with it. Even when filled with water it will provide some floatation and is easier to see by potential rescuers.
- Firearms should be unloaded and properly secured in a case while being transported in a boat. Floating gun cases earn their keep if one happens to go overboard.
- Be extra careful when shooting from a boat. Small boats often have little room to swing a shotgun, so be aware of where dogs and other partners are, and only shoot when all is clear. Never stand in an unsecured boat to shoot.
- Leave a float plan with a responsible person that includes the names of all persons in your party, type and registration number of your boat, time and location of your hunt, and when you expect to return.

Waterfowl hunting can be safer and more enjoyable if you plan ahead and make safe practices part of your water-based hunt. Safety is always the first and most important measure of a successful hunt.

*Duck boat safety tips contributed by the Virginia Waterfowlers Association*  
[www.vawfa.org](http://www.vawfa.org)



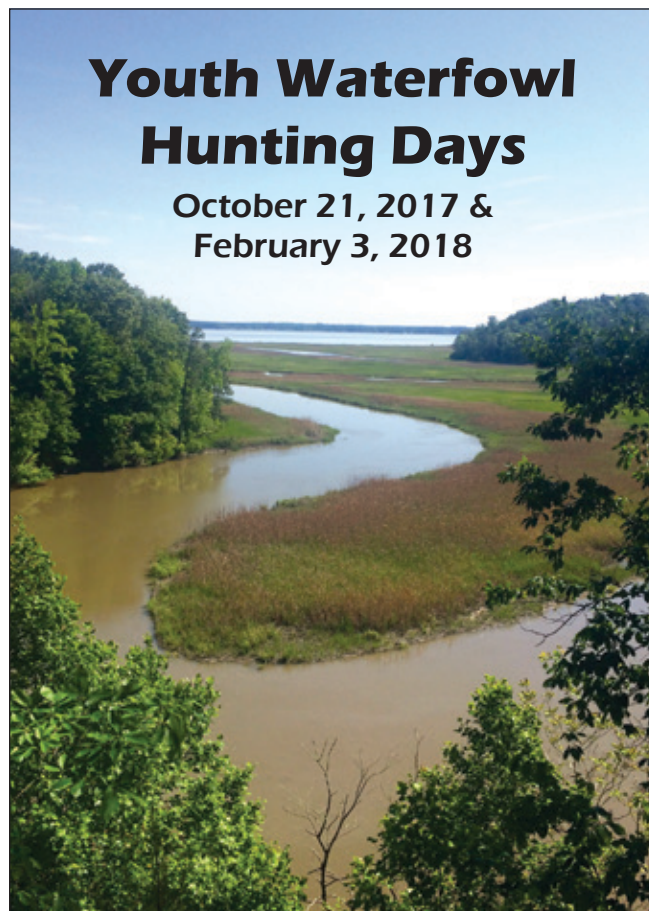
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## 2017-2018 Dove/Waterfowl Quota Hunts

### General Information/Application

Quota hunts provide hunters unique opportunities to access public lands that otherwise may be closed to hunting. Hunters can participate in random drawings to hunt waterfowl, white-tailed deer, black bear, quail, rabbits and turkeys. To participate, hunters must apply pre-season and submit a non-refundable application fee. Applicants should be aware there is a risk and no guarantee that you will be selected for the hunt or hunt dates. Your application fee(s) will not be returned.

Your application fee(s) are used to process the application, conduct computer random hunter selections and post online hunter notifications. Application fees are \$7.50 for each hunt.

A hunter may only apply through the Department's website at [www.gooutdoors-virginia.com](http://www.gooutdoors-virginia.com). Successful applicants can find their hunt materials online by logging into their Quota Hunts landing page.

Hunters may receive additional hunt dates as a bonus if the hunt series does not fill to capacity. To be eligible for this opportunity, select "I will accept any date" when applying for your

hunt. Hunters are responsible for obtaining all applicable licenses and stamps.

### New for the 2017-2018 Quota Hunt Season

- New online application process

### Quota Hunts Having Early Application Deadlines

- Princess Anne Early Season Waterfowl Hunt, Series #112 — Applications must be received on or before July 28, 2017.
- Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area Dove Hunt, Series #608 — Application must be received on or before July 28, 2017.
- Adams Daniel Farm — Dove Hunt, Series, #609 — Application must be received on or before July 28, 2017.

### Waterfowl

#### Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) - Series #101

Hunt waterfowl at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Hunt includes morning hunt until 11:00 a.m. each Saturday during the last two segments of the general duck season. Hunter check-in begins at 4:00 a.m. and ends promptly at 4:30 a.m. Stand-by drawings to replace "no show" vacancies will be held at 4:15 a.m.; individuals with a current "unsuccessful draw notification letter" will be given priority. Individuals age 16 years and older must have a valid picture

ID for security. Hunting parties are provided a blind and boat for the hunt. Decoys will no longer be provided for this hunt. Hunters without decoys may call (757) 357-5224 in advance for decoy availability. Nine hunters are randomly selected for each day of hunting, and selected hunters are allowed two guests. Limited access to the area requires hunters be transported by Department personnel to their blind location. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt dates:** November 18, 25; December 16 (no geese), 23, 30; January 6, 13, 20, 27.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

#### Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts - Series #102

Hunt waterfowl on managed impoundments at Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunt includes half day hunting each Saturday during the last two segments of the general duck season. Hunter check-in starts at 4:45 a.m. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each day of hunting and selected hunters are allowed three guests. Stand-by drawings will be held to replace "no show" vacancies; individuals with a current "unsuccessful draw notification letter" will be given priority. Dogs are allowed and recommended. Note: Hunters are to provide their own decoys.

- **Hunt dates:** November 18, 25; December 16 (no geese), 23, 30; January 6, 13, 20, 27.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

## FOURTH GENERATION OUTFITTERS



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### Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts - Series #103

Hunt waterfowl on the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Hunt days are during the last two segments of the general duck season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. Three hunters will be randomly selected for each 3-day block (except on Dec. 16). Hunting is from floating blinds at designated blind stakes only.

- **Hunt days:** Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.
- **Hunt dates:** November 15–18, 22–25; December 16 (only), December 20–23; 27–30; January 3–6, 10–13, 17–20, 24–27.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

### Tundra Swan Permit - Series #104

Tundra Swan hunting is by permit only. Each permit holder will be authorized to take one tundra swan. The hunt area is limited to east of U.S. Route I-95 and south of Chopawamsic Creek on the Prince William / Stafford County line.

- **Tundra Swan season:** November 15–January 31.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

### Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts - Series #105

Hunt waterfowl on Lake Orange in Orange County. Hunt days are Wednesdays and Saturdays during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Selected hunters will be allowed two guests. Hunting will only be allowed on a designated section(s) of Lake Orange. Only floating blinds, anchored within 50 feet of shore, or portable blinds along the designated shoreline will be allowed.

- **Hunt dates:** November 15, 18, 22, 25; December 16, 20, 23, 27, 30; January 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

### Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts - Series #106

Hunt waterfowl on designated impoundments at Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Hunt days are every Wednesday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunts begin one half hour before sunrise and end at 3:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunters must provide decoys. Dogs are allowed. There are no boat landings or direct vehicular access provided. Small boats or canoes may be used but must be transported on foot.

- **Hunt dates:** November 15, 22; December 20, 27; January 3, 10, 17, 24.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

### Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts - Series #107

Hunt waterfowl for half days on the waters of Back Bay and the North Landing River in the City of Virginia Beach during the last two segments of the general duck season. There are 55 floating blind stakes available for hunting.

Drawing order will be randomly selected for each hunt day prior to the hunting season. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind in the order assigned by the preseason drawing. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting after the quota drawing. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time! See Princess Anne WMA page for maps.

- **Hunt days:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.
- **Please note:** On Dec. 25 (Christmas Day) — the blind stakes at Princess Anne WMA will be open without quota on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Hunt dates:** Nov. 15, 18, 20, 22, 25; Dec. 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30; Jan. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.

### Plum Tree National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunts - Series #108

Hunt waterfowl for full days on the Cow Island Unit of Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Poquoson. Hunting is available from licensed blind locations. Hunters select preferred dates for two-day hunt packages during the last two segments of the regular duck season. Each hunter selected is allowed 2 guests. Hunters must provide their own boat access to the refuge, decoys, and hunting gear. Use of retrieval dogs is permitted and encouraged. The nearest boat launch access to the hunting area is from the Rens Road Public Boat Ramp in Poquoson or from Owens Marina (launching fee collected on-site).

- **Hunt days:** Opening days, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and some holidays
- **Hunt dates:** Nov. 15 & 18, Nov. 22 & 23; Dec. 16 & 20, Dec. 22 & 23, Dec. 25 & 27, Dec. 30 & Jan. 1, Jan. 3 & 6, Jan. 10 & 13, Jan. 17 & 20, Jan. 24 & 27.
- **Applications due:** September 29, 2017.
- **More information:** USFWS or (804) 829-9020.

### Princess Anne Early Season Waterfowl Hunt #112

Hunt September Canada geese/teal (during the September teal season) and waterfowl (during the October waterfowl season) on the Princess Anne WMA and North Landing River in Virginia Beach. Resident goose season prior to the teal season is open on a first-come, first-served basis. Quota hunting begins with the opening of teal season. There are 55 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Drawing order will be randomly selected for each hunt day prior to the hunting season. Each hunt

day, hunters present will select their blind in the order assigned by the preseason drawing. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting after the quota drawing. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time!

- **Hunt days:** Three days weekly. Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Opening Day.
- **Hunt dates:** September 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30; October 6, 7, 9.
- **Applications due:** July 28, 2017.

### Game Farm Marsh (WMA) #113

Hunt waterfowl on the Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County. Seven parties will be randomly selected to hunt the area. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests and must check-in with Department staff at Eagles Landing by 5:00 a.m. Stand-by drawings to replace “no show” vacancies will be held at 5:15 a.m.; individuals with a current “unsuccessful draw notification letter” will be given priority. Hunt locations will be on a “first-come, first-served” basis and hunting parties are asked to maintain a respectful distance from each other. A limited number of VDGL-licensed stationary blinds are available on the area. Hunters may use these blinds if desired, but are not required to hunt from the blinds. Hunters may also hunt from floating blinds or while standing on Game Farm Marsh property. Hunting out of floating blinds is not permitted within 500 yards of any privately licensed stationary blinds. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m. Successfully drawn hunters must have their award notification with them during the hunt period. No other equipment is provided. You will need a boat to access the WMA. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt dates:** October 6, 7; November 15; December 16.
- **Applications Due:** August 25, 2017.

For the remainder of the October, November, and December/January segments of the duck season, Game Farm Marsh WMA is open for hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with no restrictions on the number of hunters. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m.

### Dove

#### Chickahominy (WMA) Dove Hunt #608

Hunt managed dove fields on the Chickahominy WMA in Charles City County. This opportunity provides each selected hunter and two guests a one day hunt on managed dove fields in the



early segment of dove season. On each of the three hunt days 14 hunters will be selected. Successfully drawn applicants must have their award notification with them to hunt. Dogs are allowed. HIP number is required.

- **Hunt dates:** September 2, 4 and 6.
- **Hunt time:** Meet at dove field parking area at 11:30 a.m.; hunting starts at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m.
- **Applications due:** July 28, 2017.

**Adams Daniel Farm – Dove Hunt #609**  
Hunt doves on managed fields on the Adams Daniel Farm in Pittsylvania County. This

opportunity provides each selected hunter and one licensed guest a one day hunt for doves in the early dove season segment. Eight hunters will be selected for each day. Selected applicants will be issued a hunting pass which must be carried and a windshield pass which must be displayed. Dogs are allowed. Hunting hours — 12 noon until sunset. HIP number is required.

- **Hunt dates:** September 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 16.
- **Applications due:** July 28, 2017.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.



## 2017-2018 Managed Hunts & Workshops

Managed Hunts are generally by on-site random drawings or by application through the local Resource Office. Hunting opportunities are provided on various Department Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges.

### Waterfowl

#### Hog Island WMA September Waterfowl Hunts

Hunt resident Canada geese and teal when in season on the first, third and fourth Wednesdays in September until 11:00 a.m. on Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of 10 parties of no more than 3 hunters per party will be selected each morning of the hunt. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Hunters should call in advance to determine field hunting conditions (crops in/out or of the fields). Phone number: (757) 357-5224. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt days:** Wednesdays
- **Hunt dates:** September 6, 20, and 27.
- Drawing begins promptly at 4:15 a.m.

#### Hog Island - Youth October Waterfowl Day

The Department in cooperation with The Wildlife Foundation of Virginia will host a youth waterfowl hunting day for 20 youths on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Only youth may hunt and carry a firearm. The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult. All youth hunters must register for this event and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, contact the Hog Island WMA between September 15–20, 2017, at (757) 357-5224. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt date:** October 21, 2017.
- Hunters to arrive by 4:30 a.m.

#### Hog Island - Youth February Waterfowl Day

This is an opportunity for nine youths to hunt waterfowl on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County on the January Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day. Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult. All youth hunters must register for this event and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, contact the Hog Island WMA between January 3–19, 2018, at (757) 357-5224. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

- **Hunt date:** February 3, 2018.
- Hunters to arrive by 4:30 a.m.

#### Princess Anne WMA Impoundments September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

This is an opportunity to hunt September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl during the October waterfowl season on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's impoundment system will be open on a first-come, first-served basis for half-day (until 1:00 p.m.) hunting on Saturdays. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking areas off Munden Road. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts.

- **Hunt days:** Saturdays.
- **Hunt dates:**
  - » **September Geese:** September 2, 9, 16, 23.
  - » **September Teal:** September 16, 23, 30.
  - » **October Waterfowl:** October 7, 2017.
- Hunters may not occupy area before 5:00 a.m.

#### Princess Anne WMA Light Goose Conservation Order Season (Snow and Ross' Geese)

This is an opportunity for float blind hunters to hunt snow geese (light geese) at the Princess Anne WMA after the general duck season. The Princess Anne blind stakes and impoundments at Back Bay are available for snow goose hunting after the general duck season. These hunts will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Daily hunting times will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The impoundments are open for late snow goose hunting on Wednesdays, Saturdays

and state holidays. The blind stakes may be hunted Mondays–Saturdays.

- **Conservation Order Season:** February 1–April 5, 2018 (No Sunday hunting).

#### Princess Anne WMA - Youth Waterfowl Days

Float blind stakes and the impoundments will be open on a first-come, first-served basis to youth 15 years or younger when accompanied by an adult on youth waterfowl hunting days. Only youth may hunt and carry a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts.

- **Hunt dates:** October 21, 2017 and February 3, 2018.
- Hunters may not occupy area before 5:00 a.m.

**The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.**

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

## Lawful Hunting Methods

**It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl and coots on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:**

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl and coots**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation. See page 17 for definition of Normal Agricultural Operation.

### Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

### Non-toxic Shot

No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans, coots, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules, rails or snipe while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see page 4 or [www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdissues/nontoxic.htm](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdissues/nontoxic.htm).

### Opening Day of a Season

No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

### Field Possession Limit

No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

### Tagging Requirement

No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his

personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

### Custody of Birds of Another

No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

### Termination of Possession

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

### Gift of Migratory Game Birds

No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

### Transportation of Birds of Another

No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

### Species Identification Requirement

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

### Marking Package or Container

No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge specific regulations see [www.fws.gov/refuges/](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/).



© Denver Bryan



## Unlawful Hunting Methods

Hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, with a gun, firearm, or other weapon, or to hunt or kill any deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs, on Sundays.

### Exceptions to Sunday hunting prohibition:

1. Raccoons may be hunted until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.
2. Waterfowl (ducks, coot, geese, brant, and swans), and rails, gallinules, and moorhen may be hunted on Sundays subject to geographical limitations established by the Director and except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
3. Any landowner or member of his family or any person with written permission from the landowner may hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, on the landowner's property on Sunday, except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
4. Hunting is permitted on licensed shooting preserves.

### No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply to crows and during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e., greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese);
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut

off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;

- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply to crows or during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e., greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese);
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

## VIRGINIA MIGRATORY WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMP

The artwork for the 2017 Virginia State Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp, painted by Guy Crittenden, is entitled "Winter Ringbills" and depicts a pair of ring-necked ducks swimming.

The painting by Crittenden was selected by a judging panel made up of VDGIF staff and representatives from Virginia Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, and the Virginia Waterfowlers Association.

This is the sixth time that Virginia artist Guy Crittenden has been selected as the winning artist for the Virginia Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. He won the "First of State" stamp contest in 2005 with Wood Ducks. He followed that with wins in 2007, 2010, 2014, and 2015.

Guy prefers to work in oils and his subjects are best described as landscapes, wildlife, and sporting scenes.

For information on ordering the 2017 Virginia Duck Stamp print visit <https://crittendenstudiostore.com>.



2017 Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp artwork.

© Guy Crittenden

A Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is required of all persons, unless license exempt, 16 years of age and older hunting or taking any migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, brant and swans) within the commonwealth. The annual duck stamp can be purchased for a fee of \$10 (resident or nonresident) at license agents or clerks who sell Virginia hunting licenses, or from the Department's website.



## Waterfowl Blind Laws

### General

The laws governing the licensing and location of waterfowl blinds are included in the Code of Virginia, promulgated by the General Assembly. These are implemented by regulations adopted by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

### Blinds Generally

Blinds located west of I-95 are not subject to these laws and regulations, nor do they apply to blinds located in Accomack and Northampton counties. No new blind licenses will be issued for additional stationary blinds in the City of Virginia Beach. No hunting is allowed within 500 yards of a licensed stationary blind without written permission from the blind owner.

### Stationary Blind

Is a structure erected at a fixed location either on the shores of the public waters or in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl. A stationary blind shall be (1) of such size and strength that it can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, or (2) large enough to accommodate and conceal a boat or skiff from which one or more hunters intend to hunt or shoot waterfowl.

### Floating Blind

Is a floating device, whether in motion or anchored, that can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, uses a means of concealment other than the device's paint or coloration, and is used in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl.

### Offshore Blind Stake Site

Is a specific location in the public waters where a stake is licensed for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl from a licensed floating blind. Valid only in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond.

### Waterfowl Blind License

Stationary, floating blind, and offshore blind stake licenses are available during the time periods listed below from any license agent through the Department's point of sale system, or online at [www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com](http://www.gooutdoorsvirginia.com). Hunters have the option of requesting a blind plate be sent to them if they do not have one. The blind plate, if requested, and a decal for the plate will be mailed within 3 to 5 business days. Hunters who purchase a blind license online will be able to print out a copy of their application information. A license for their blind will be emailed immediately after the sale is complete. The license plate furnished must be affixed to the blind at a location where it can be easily seen.

### Number of Blinds

- Licenses for floating blinds shall be limited to two in any one season, to any one applicant.
- Clubs or individuals who do not own riparian rights shall be permitted to license no more than two stationary blinds in the public waters in any one season.
- There are no restrictions for the number of riparian blinds for those with riparian rights.

### Spacing of Blinds Generally

Except for adjacent landowners, licensed stationary blinds may be placed no closer than 500 yards to each other, except they may be placed closer together with the mutual consent of the licensees involved. Except for county exceptions, listed on page 25–26, floating blinds may be positioned no closer than 500 yards to any licensed stationary blind, whether it is occupied or not, without consent of the owner of the neighboring blind.

### Rights of Riparian Landowner

The owners of riparian rights or their invitees shall not be required to obtain a stationary blind license when hunting waterfowl from such a blind located on the riparian owner's property. However, a stationary blind license shall be required in order to afford the riparian owners the protections provided by Virginia law. The owner of riparian rights, his lessee or permittee has exclusive privileges of licensing blinds on his shoreline and prior rights

## WHEN BLIND LICENSES ARE SOLD

**Riparian landowners or their lessees or permittees licensing a stationary blind that was not licensed the previous year** by the riparian owner, lessee, or permittee may purchase a stationary blind license from February 1 through June 15. A stake or a stationary blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by June 30. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

**Riparian owners or their lessees or permittees licensing a stationary blind that was licensed the previous year** by the riparian owner, lessee, or permittee may purchase a stationary blind license from February 1 through August 15. A stake or a stationary blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by August 31. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

**A nonriparian license for a stationary blind in the public waters that was licensed the previous year** as a nonriparian stationary blind may be obtained by the previous year's licensee beginning July 1 through August 15, provided that a new riparian license has not been staked within 500 yards of that location. A stake or blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by August 31. If a stake has been erected

on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

**A stationary blind or a site in the public waters that is not licensed and posted by August 31** can be licensed as a nonriparian blind beginning September 1 through October 15. A stake or blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season must be affixed thereto. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake must be replaced by a blind by November 1.

**Floating Blind licenses:** on or after July 1.

**Offshore Blind Stake Site license** for nonriparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind in counties where floating blinds are prohibited: November 1–10.

**Offshore Blind Stake Site license** for riparian owner who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind in counties where floating blinds are prohibited: November 11–15.



Photo by Dwight Dyke



of licensing and erecting blinds in the public waters in front of such shoreline. These blinds shall not be located in water deeper than eight feet at mean high tide, nor shall they be farther than halfway across the body of water from the riparian owner's shoreline, except on the shores and waters of Back Bay in the City of Virginia Beach where such blinds are limited to (i) the riparian owner's shoreline at the mean low water mark or (ii) blinds erected and licensed by the riparian owner in 2011. No other blind may be located within 500 yards of this stake or blind without consent of the owner, permittee, or lessee. The stake must be replaced by an erected stationary blind as specified by Code by November 1 to be a licensed blind under the law. Where the lands of two property owners adjoin, each may place blinds on his property or in the public waters in front of his property without regard to the placement of blinds on his neighbor's property.

### Rights of Nonriparian Owner

Although the law states that a riparian owner who does not license a blind on his shore by August 31 forfeits the privilege for that season, it does not mean a nonriparian owner can erect or license a blind on the property of another without permission. If a landowner has not licensed a stake or a blind by August 31, a nonriparian owner may license a location in the public waters in front of such land, providing no other location within 500 yards has been so licensed. Such blind shall not be located in a marked navigation channel. A nonriparian license for a blind that was licensed the previous year as a nonriparian blind can be purchased from July 1 through August 15, provided that a new riparian license has not been staked within 500 yards of that location, and a plate with current decal must be affixed to a stake or blind by August 31. A nonriparian license for a blind or blind site not previously licensed the year before can be purchased from September 1 through October 15, and a plate and current decal must be affixed to it by November 1.

Of course, if a location is secured through agreement with a riparian landowner having control of the near shoreline, the site may be licensed as applies to a permittee or lessee of a landowner. A nonriparian owner, having licensed a blind in a given location, has first option to license such blind each year unless the riparian landowner having claim to that location exercises his right to license it.

### Riparian Owner's Rights Renewed Annually

If a riparian owner fails to exercise his options, he may elect to do so the following year, thus preempting any rights of nonriparian owners who have erected blinds in the public waters in front of his shoreline.

### Penalty for Violations

Any person who hunts or shoots migratory waterfowl in the public waters of this Commonwealth within 500 yards of any legally licensed

erected stationary blind of another without the written permission of the licensee shall be guilty of a criminal offense that is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor. This provision shall not apply to any person when in active pursuit of a visible crippled waterfowl which was legally shot by the person.

Additionally, any person who erects a stationary blind within 500 yards of another licensed blind without permission of the licensee is guilty of a trespass, and the owner of the blind so encroached upon may maintain an action for damages. It should be noted that this is a criminal offense. It should also be noted that by November 1 a stationary blind must be erected; therefore, a stake with a stationary license affixed thereto cannot be considered to be a stationary blind after November 1.

### Loss of Blind License

The violation of any of the provisions of law or regulations as to hunting migratory waterfowl from licensed blinds shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor and, in addition to other authorized penalties, the trial court shall immediately revoke the license of the blind owner who will have the same privileges as a new applicant to apply for a blind license the following year. Any blind for which the license has been revoked shall be destroyed by the former licensee.

### Accidental Destruction of Blind

If a blind is destroyed in any manner beyond the control of the owner, it may be replaced within 30 days without losing the position it formerly occupied.

### Floating Blinds, Where Prohibited

The use of floating blinds is prohibited in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond in any of the public marshes, guts, streams, branches, creeks, or bays, including among others, Green Bay and Port Tobago Bay, flowing into the Rappahannock River or in any of its tributaries, or in Buckner's Creek, Nomini Creek and Nomini Bay, flowing into the Potomac River or any of its tributaries, **except from a licensed Offshore Blind Stake Site.** (See below for details.)

### Offshore Blind Stake Sites

A nonriparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the 5-county area identified above and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply for a license for offshore blind stake sites. The license for an offshore blind stake site may be obtained from November 1 through November 10 of each year. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 10.

## ATTENTION HUNTERS: MIGRATORY BIRD BANDING PROJECTS

Wildlife agencies around the country, including the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries capture and leg-band a number of migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, brant, swans, and doves as part of our annual monitoring programs. Analysis from the recoveries of banded birds provides biologists with important information on bird distribution, harvest rates, and survival. Hunters recovering any banded migratory game bird can keep the band, but remember to report the recovery information. **Please note that the toll-free band reporting phone number has been discontinued** (even though some bands you recover may still be inscribed with that number). You must now report all bands online at the USGS website, [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or by sending your information by mail to: Bird Banding Lab, 12100 Beach Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708. People that call the toll-free number will be directed to report their bird bands using the REPORTBAND website or by mail. After reporting the band you will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" that includes information about where and when the bird was banded. For more information on the banding projects or other Department migratory bird programs, visit our website at [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov).

**Please help us help you manage migratory game birds in Virginia by reporting banded birds.**

**Please report ONLY USFWS bands. Private bands cannot be reported on this website.**

# WATERFOWL BLIND LAWS

From November 11 through November 15 of each year, any riparian owner and any other person who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the areas noted above, and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply for a license for any remaining offshore blind stake sites. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 15.

Offshore blind stakes shall be removed from the public waters within 15 days of the close of the waterfowl season.

## Placement of Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford Counties

No stationary blind shall be more than 300 yards from shore, except in waters less than 600 yards wide, in which case the blind may be no more than half the width of the water from shore. This distance is measured from the low water mark.

No license shall be issued for stationary waterfowl blinds on the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas.

## Floating Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford Counties

Floating blinds must be anchored and located no closer to another's blind than 400 yards unless person has written permission of blind owner. Such blinds must be taken in at a half hour after sunset.

In the area adjacent to the National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas floating blinds must be attached to a Game Department-placed post or buoy or anchored at global positioning system (GPS) locations designated by the department. Only one floating blind per post. These are on a first-come, first-served basis; sites to be occupied no earlier than 4:00 a.m. or later than one-half hour after sunset, and blinds removed each day. Hunters in licensed floating blinds can hunt from designated locations during legal shooting hours on Thanksgiving Day and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the open season.

## Placement of Blinds Adjacent to Certain Wildlife Management Areas

No stationary blinds shall be licensed in the waters adjacent to the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Charles City County, the Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County, the Lands End WMA in King George County, Ware Creek WMA in New Kent County, and the Ragged Island WMA in Isle of Wight County.

## Occupied or Unoccupied Blinds

No person shall hunt or shoot migratory waterfowl in the public waters of this Commonwealth within 500 yards of any legally licensed erected stationary blind of another, whether occupied or not, without the written consent of the licensee, except when in active pursuit of a visible crippled waterfowl which was legally shot by the person.

## Crippled Waterfowl

When in active pursuit of a visible waterfowl which was legally shot, the hunter may pursue such waterfowl without regard to the 500 yard prohibition protecting licensed waterfowl blinds.

## Jump Shooting from Boats

Permitted where appropriate landowner permission has been secured or where generally permitted on public waters. Consult with the local Conservation Police Officer to learn local restrictions. Not permitted within 500 yards of a licensed stationary blind, except with consent of blind owner. If a boat is used for jump shooting and is modified for the purpose of concealing the hunter, it is a floating blind and must be licensed as such. Jump shooting is not permitted from a boat having a motor attached or any sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress therefrom has ceased.

## Abandoned Blinds

Those licensing stationary blinds in the public waters shall remove same when licenses are allowed to expire or when they no longer intend to use them, whichever comes first.

## Waterfowl Blind Cleanup

Hunters are asked to remove unnatural materials, such as netting, camouflage cloth, wire, or twine from stationary blinds after the waterfowl hunting season. Birds such as ospreys, eagles, and owls often use blind structures for perching and/or nesting. Such materials, if left after the hunting season, can cause injury and even death to these birds if they become entangled in the material.



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## Areas Closed to Waterfowl Hunting

The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 750 yards of a wildlife sanctuary in any city in Virginia.

**Taking, attempting to take, pursuing, or disturbing waterfowl is prohibited in the following areas:**

- In Virginia Beach on the waters and from the shores of Crystal Lake, Linkhorn and Broad Bay, and Long Creek and their tributaries.
- Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge in Surry County and all of the waters of the James River within a radius of 1,000 yards around that island, with the exception of blinds erected by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- The waters of the James River around Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (except for the Turkey Island Cutoff navigational channel) to the mean low water mark on the opposite shore.
- Gaston Reservoir (Roanoke River) from a point beginning at High Rock and extending to the John H. Kerr Dam.
- The public waters extending 1,000 yards out from the marked shoreline of the Lands End WMA on the Rappahannock River in King George County, with the exception

that adjacent landowners may still exercise their riparian rights. Additional information, including a map of this area, can be found at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/).

- The waters of the Great Hunting Creek embayment within the city of Alexandria, and the waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County north of Dyke Marsh and south of the city of Alexandria and between the shore and a line 1,000 feet from the Maryland State Line, although waterfowl that have been wounded elsewhere may be pursued into this area.
- The waters of Kane Creek Waterfowl Refuge within the boundaries of Mason Neck State Park in Fairfax County.
- The waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge extending from Sycamore Point northeasterly to Hallowing Point including all tributary creeks, guts, and inlets along the shoreline.
- The portion of the New River that lies entirely within the boundaries of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in the counties of Montgomery and Pulaski.
- The waters of Kittewan Creek Refuge in Charles City County, west (upstream) of the posted refuge boundary markers (latitude-longitude coordinates 37.29831 - 77.05134) located approximately one mile upstream from the James River.



## DO YOU USE A BOAT TO HUNT?

**Boating Safety Courses Are Required**

**Motorboat 10 hp or Greater**

- All ages

**For more information visit:**

[www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/)

### PERMISSION TO HUNT

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.

I grant \_\_\_\_\_ my property  
permission to \_\_\_\_\_

on these dates \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(over)

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Landowner signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(over)

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Hunter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto License No. \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.

#### SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE

In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:

1. Respect the landowner's property, only go where he/she designates and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.
2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.
3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.
4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.

Hunter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto License No. \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.

Hunter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Sunrise and Sunset Timetable – Richmond, Virginia

Times below are Eastern Standard Time and reflect Daylight Saving Time when in use.

	JULY 2017		AUG. 2017		SEPT. 2017		OCT. 2017		NOV. 2017		DEC. 2017		JAN. 2018		FEB. 2018		MAR. 2018		APR. 2018		MAY 2018		JUNE 2018	
DAY	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)
1	5:53	8:35	6:14	8:18	6:40	7:38	7:06	6:53	7:35	6:11	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:02	7:13	5:34	6:41	6:04	6:55	7:33	6:15	8:00	5:50	8:25
2	5:53	8:35	6:15	8:17	6:41	7:37	7:06	6:51	7:36	6:10	7:07	4:52	7:25	5:03	7:12	5:35	6:40	6:05	6:54	7:34	6:13	8:01	5:50	8:26
3	5:53	8:35	6:16	8:16	6:42	7:35	7:07	6:50	7:37	6:09	7:08	4:52	7:25	5:04	7:12	5:36	6:38	6:06	6:52	7:34	6:12	8:02	5:50	8:27
4	5:54	8:35	6:17	8:15	6:43	7:34	7:08	6:48	7:38	6:08	7:09	4:51	7:25	5:05	7:11	5:37	6:37	6:07	6:51	7:35	6:11	8:03	5:49	8:27
5	5:55	8:34	6:17	8:14	6:44	7:32	7:09	6:47	7:39	6:07	7:10	4:51	7:25	5:06	7:10	5:38	6:36	6:08	6:49	7:36	6:10	8:03	5:49	8:28
6	5:55	8:34	6:18	8:12	6:45	7:31	7:10	6:45	7:40	6:06	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:07	7:09	5:39	6:34	6:09	6:48	7:37	6:09	8:04	5:49	8:28
7	5:56	8:34	6:19	8:11	6:45	7:29	7:11	6:44	7:41	6:05	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:08	7:08	5:41	6:33	6:10	6:46	7:38	6:08	8:05	5:49	8:29
8	5:56	8:33	6:20	8:10	6:46	7:28	7:12	6:42	7:42	6:04	7:12	4:51	7:25	5:09	7:07	5:42	6:31	6:10	6:45	7:39	6:07	8:06	5:48	8:30
9	5:57	8:33	6:21	8:09	6:47	7:26	7:13	6:41	7:43	6:04	7:13	4:52	7:25	5:10	7:06	5:43	6:30	6:11	6:44	7:40	6:06	8:07	5:48	8:30
10	5:57	8:33	6:22	8:08	6:48	7:25	7:14	6:39	7:45	6:03	7:14	4:52	7:25	5:10	7:05	5:44	6:28	6:12	6:42	7:41	6:05	8:08	5:48	8:31
11	5:58	8:32	6:23	8:07	6:49	7:23	7:15	6:38	7:46	6:02	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:11	7:04	5:45	6:27	6:13	6:41	7:42	6:04	8:09	5:48	8:31
12	5:59	8:32	6:23	8:06	6:50	7:22	7:15	6:36	7:47	6:01	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:12	7:03	5:46	6:25	6:14	6:39	7:43	6:03	8:10	5:48	8:32
13	5:59	8:32	6:24	8:04	6:50	7:20	7:16	6:35	7:48	6:00	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:13	7:01	5:47	6:24	6:15	6:38	7:43	6:02	8:11	5:48	8:32
14	6:00	8:31	6:25	8:03	6:51	7:19	7:17	6:34	7:49	6:00	7:17	4:53	7:24	5:14	7:00	5:48	6:22	6:16	6:36	7:44	6:01	8:11	5:48	8:32
15	6:01	8:31	6:26	8:02	6:52	7:17	7:18	6:32	7:50	6:00	7:17	4:53	7:23	5:15	6:59	5:49	6:21	6:17	6:35	7:45	6:01	8:12	5:48	8:33
16	6:02	8:30	6:27	8:01	6:53	7:16	7:19	6:31	7:51	6:00	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:17	6:58	5:50	6:19	6:18	6:34	7:46	6:00	8:13	5:48	8:33
17	6:02	8:29	6:28	7:59	6:54	7:14	7:20	6:30	7:52	6:00	7:19	4:54	7:23	5:18	6:57	5:51	6:18	6:19	6:32	7:47	5:59	8:14	5:48	8:33
18	6:03	8:29	6:29	7:58	6:55	7:13	7:21	6:28	7:53	6:00	7:19	4:54	7:22	5:19	6:56	5:52	6:16	7:20	6:31	7:48	5:58	8:15	5:48	8:34
19	6:04	8:28	6:29	7:57	6:55	7:11	7:22	6:27	7:54	6:00	7:20	4:54	7:22	5:20	6:54	5:53	6:15	7:21	6:30	7:49	5:57	8:16	5:49	8:34
20	6:04	8:28	6:30	7:55	6:56	7:09	7:23	6:26	7:56	6:00	7:20	4:55	7:21	5:21	6:53	5:55	6:13	7:22	6:28	7:50	5:57	8:16	5:49	8:34
21	6:05	8:27	6:31	7:54	6:57	7:08	7:24	6:24	7:58	6:00	7:21	4:55	7:21	5:22	6:52	5:56	6:12	7:23	6:27	7:51	5:56	8:17	5:49	8:34
22	6:06	8:26	6:32	7:53	6:58	7:06	7:25	6:23	7:59	6:00	7:21	4:56	7:20	5:23	6:51	5:57	6:10	7:24	6:26	7:52	5:55	8:18	5:49	8:35
23	6:07	8:25	6:33	7:51	6:59	7:05	7:26	6:22	7:59	6:00	7:22	4:56	7:20	5:24	6:49	5:58	6:09	7:24	6:24	7:53	5:55	8:19	5:49	8:35
24	6:08	8:25	6:34	7:50	7:00	7:03	7:27	6:21	7:59	6:00	7:22	4:57	7:19	5:25	6:48	5:59	6:07	7:25	6:23	7:53	5:54	8:20	5:50	8:35
25	6:08	8:24	6:34	7:49	7:00	7:02	7:28	6:19	7:59	6:00	7:23	4:58	7:19	5:26	6:47	6:00	6:06	7:26	6:22	7:54	5:54	8:20	5:50	8:35
26	6:09	8:23	6:35	7:47	7:01	7:00	7:29	6:18	7:59	6:00	7:23	4:58	7:18	5:27	6:45	6:01	6:04	7:27	6:21	7:55	5:53	8:21	5:50	8:35
27	6:10	8:22	6:36	7:46	7:02	6:59	7:30	6:17	7:59	6:00	7:23	4:59	7:17	5:28	6:44	6:02	6:03	7:28	6:19	7:56	5:52	8:22	5:51	8:35
28	6:11	8:21	6:37	7:44	7:03	6:57	7:31	6:16	7:59	6:00	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:30	6:43	6:03	6:01	7:29	6:18	7:57	5:52	8:23	5:51	8:35
29	6:12	8:20	6:38	7:43	7:04	6:56	7:32	6:15	7:59	6:00	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:31			6:00	7:30	6:17	7:58	5:52	8:23	5:52	8:35
30	6:12	8:20	6:39	7:41	7:05	6:54	7:33	6:13	7:59	6:00	7:24	5:01	7:15	5:32			6:58	7:31	6:16	7:59	5:51	8:24	5:52	8:35
31	6:13	8:19	6:40	7:40			7:34	6:12			7:24	5:02	7:14	5:33			6:57	7:32			5:51	8:25		

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

LOCATION	CORRECTION	LOCATION	CORRECTION
Bristol.....	+19 minutes	Newport News.....	-5 minutes
Cape Charles.....	-6 minutes	Norfolk.....	-5 minutes
Charlottesville.....	+4 minutes	Roanoke.....	+10 minutes
Chincoteague.....	-8 minutes	Tazewell.....	+16 minutes
Danville.....	+8 minutes	Williamsburg.....	-3 minutes
Fredericksburg.....	0 minutes	Winchester.....	+3 minutes

### Information obtained from:

Astronomical Applications Dept.  
Location: W077 28, N37 32  
U. S. Naval Observatory  
Washington, DC 20392-5420  
Eastern Standard Time



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